

I object to Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election without fair and equal representation from the other side of the issue. It is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and the control of information.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest without bias. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for political agendas and profit and less of what we need in order for the public to exercise choice in our democracy. To serve the public means giving them real news that is important to their local community, not serving up PR packages that have a more or less hidden agenda.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules and supervision. TV is a powerful medium: It can be used to empower people by giving them objective, unadulterated news or it can disenfranchise them by giving them partisan propaganda. Sinclair shows why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.